

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

VOL. I.

New-York, Saturday, August 15, 1846.

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New-York, Saturday, August 15, 1846.

AGENTS.

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MORTALITY OF CHILDREN.

The mortality of children in our city and elsewhere is a grave subject; and what we say of it should be with great care, that we may not put forth error instead of truth. There are however, in our judgment, enough of clearly ascertained facts, which, if closely regarded, will enable us to progress with safety.

The City Inspector reports 547 deaths from the 18th of July to the 1st of August. Of this number, 320 were two years of age and under.

On examining these reports, we cannot make out of what these children died. We have selected all the diseases named in the list, with which children are liable to be afflicted, and yet the number is only 275; viz, cholera infantum 91, convulsions 44, croup 3, dropsy in the head 20, scarlet fever 4, whooping cough 15, inflammation of the brain 11, inflammation of the bowels 17, inflammation of the lungs 13, marasmus 43, premature birth 2, sprue 4, teething 7, worms 1. We notice this as evidence, among other points, of the imperfection of these reports in the names of diseases. We do not blame the Inspector, for he is governed by the certificates of physicians. In the reports before us for two weeks, may be seen, died of "debility 14." What kind of disease is "debility?" We do not know. For a scientific physician to write a certificate "died of debility," would be as reasonable as to certify *died of a want of breath*. In truth, there can be little or no reliance on this branch of these reports. We agree with a Dr. A. L. C. who recently wrote a silly paper against Homœopathy, that every case of death should be investigated by the authorities, if it were at all practicable, and the investigation should be thorough.

We propose, in the next place, to notice a very common disease of young children, and of which many die,—many more than is suspected by parents or physicians. We allude to *sprue*. This disease is known in the books by the name of *aphthæ*. Sometimes it is called the "baby's sore mouth."

It is not necessary to describe this sore mouth, as almost every one has seen it. The best authorities agree that this affection is of a symptomatic kind, or very rarely, if ever, an original disease. As evidence of this, "it is almost uniformly preceded by a deranged condition of the alimentary canal, and always, we believe, by some disturbance of the stomach itself. The brain also shows signs of participating in

this complaint, as there is almost always an unusual inclination to sleep, though the child is frequently disturbed in its nap by some internal irritation, perhaps of the bowels themselves." And the ignorant nurse will often exclaim, "the child is sleeping for a sore mouth." The bowels are often teased by watery, acrid stools, of a greenish color; their discharge is frequently attended with the eruption of much wind, and to judge from the noise, it would be supposed there was a very large discharge of forces, though upon examination it is found to be very sparing.

This is an exceedingly brief description of the condition of children laboring under *sprue*; but it is enough for our purpose. From this we will try to show why infants have this sore mouth. Every infant, without any exception, has previously to the development of the sore mouth, a derangement of the stomach or bowels, or both. How came these to be deranged? Is there any necessity for an infant's stomach and bowels to become deranged? We answer most positively, there is not. This derangement arises mostly from the ignorant and destructive doings of the nurse, or the mother, or the physician, or all three combined. This is not mere assertion: it is a sober fact. We have lived long enough, and have seen young children enough, and nurses enough, and mothers enough, and physicians enough, and enough of their doings towards young infants, to enable us to form an opinion which ought to be of some use in the health and life of children. This whole mischief comes first; of improper diet, of unnecessary drugging, of too frequent and irregular feeding of the infant. Secondly; of improper drinks and diet on the part of the mother or wet-nurse; and also improper and unnecessary taking of anodyne and purgative medicines. If a nursing mother takes a cathartic of Epsom salts, or salts and senna, almost invariably the child's bowels will be purged: if she takes opium, the first effect on the child is to constipate the bowels, and if left without doing anything, in a short time a looseness of the bowels comes on; but the usual course is, the nurse administers a dose of castor oil to relieve the constipation which in this case is a drug symptom, and then follows griping and purging. In this way that derangement is effected in a child's stomach and bowels, which precedes the development of *sprue* or sore mouth. Now, if an allopathic physician be called in, and if he administers a dose or several doses of calomel,

very often a condition will soon be induced, which he will term cholera infantum, or marasmus; and death will follow of ulceration of the bowels, attended with convulsions or symptoms of dropsy in the brain. Very lately we saw a case of this kind where there was not only ulceration of the bowels, but also of the stomach. This can be explained. The mercury is homœopathic to this disease, and is cured by it promptly in the thirtieth or twelfth dilutions, or the third trituration;—often by a single dose, if not interfered with by the nurse. If given in large doses as in the allopathic school, it aggravates the disease to such a degree in most cases, that the little sufferer has not vital energy to withstand it. The best authorities of the allopathic school do not allow of the use of mercury in these cases; but, for a reason of which we are ignorant, it is now almost always prescribed.

Marasmus is often induced by a badly treated *sprue*. Frequently the sore mouth exists during the whole course of this disease; but it is entirely overlooked by the old school. *Marasmus* by them is placed to the credit of *scorbuta*, a condition of the human system which is not known in that school, and cannot be, until Hahnemann's views of chronic diseases are acknowledged.

Although we are at times compelled to write hastily, yet we wish it understood, that these views have been entertained by us for years, and have been confirmed so often by observation, that we fully believe them to be true, and will bear the test of the closest investigation.

HOMŒOPATHY THE ONLY TRUE PRINCIPLE IN THERAPEUTICS.

Continued.

"Experience simply in the administration of drugs, is not a sufficient, nor by any means a safe guide; because they exert an influence upon the system beyond the immediate and temporary effects sought by their use." And this influence is often serious, sometimes fatal, and always to be apprehended.

We need hardly adduce any testimony to show that drugs often produce effects far different and more remote than those contemplated by their use. Instances like the following are familiar to every medical man.

A fraction of a grain of calomel given in a powder mixture, has often produced severe salivation, when it was not intended nor desired. A small dose of calomel given to children in

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cases of *aphtha (sprue)*, has frequently determined the disease to the bowels and induced ulceration, of which they die; and the cause, perhaps, is never suspected.

Antimony, injudiciously given, frequently prostrates children beyond all reaction; and this has been so fully demonstrated to some respectable allopathic physicians of our acquaintance, that they never prescribe antimony to a child, except in doses almost as small as our school administers. We remember a case in which it was given to a child, not very sick of whooping cough: it produced immediate and complete prostration, from which the child never rallied. Given to adults, in simple ailments, it has produced the most severe and fatal consequences. A few years ago the doctrines of Broussais prevailed to a great extent among the profession, and as is well known, *gastro enterite* was every thing with him and his disciples; and antimony was a favorite remedy with many of these, and we certainly saw in their patients more cases of sub-acute inflammation of the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal, than we have seen since—induced as it was by frequently repeated doses of antimony. Very lately a female, by the advice of her physician, took an antimony emetic, which caused so great an irritation of the stomach and prostration of strength, that her friends became alarmed; and the physician, to remedy the mischief he had done, gave sixty drops of laudanum, with directions to repeat the dose in case she did not improve. The dose was repeated; and she died the following morning of opium symptoms; and we can scarcely resist adding, that the certificate read "died of remittent fever."

Calomel predisposes the system to bilious attacks; rheumatic affections; to colds, &c., long after its use. Professor Chapman, of the University of Pennsylvania, has, in "The American Journal of Medical Sciences," &c., made it appear, that mercury produces disease of the liver, as well as other complaints. Mercury is a long acting drug; and in some persons never ceases to act.

Quinine predisposes to neuralgic difficulties, diseases of the chest, &c. Its free use in intermittent fevers is greatly to be deplored. It rarely leaves the system free from disease; but greatly weakens and subjects it to sufferings from debility, indigestion, chronic cough, tubercles in the lungs, &c. And so of the whole catalogue of drugs, given in large doses, especially in chronic conditions, though they

may relieve for the time, they cannot cure; and characteristic effects of the drug employed, is almost sure to be added, sooner or later, to the latent virus which it had disturbed, but failed to remove from the system. Doses given for one condition often give rise to others. The drug may accomplish *what* it was given for, and it *may* do more. The pathogenesis of a drug should be known before its administration, as also its laws of action. Dr. Williams (allopath), in his *Elements of Medicine*, says: "It is seldom that the action of poisons is limited to one membrane, or organ, or system of organs; the greater number of these noxious agents more usually act on two or more membranes, or organs, or system of organs. Alcohol and opium are examples of substances acting generally on three great nervous systems, producing infinite disturbance of the brain, the chord, and the great sympathetic, and *subsequently setting up limited or specific local actions.*" The remark that "the remedy is worse than the disease," is often made by those who have witnessed the aggravations produced by drugs in ordinary cases of disease, and who have observed the after effects of drugs. The long period of convalescence from acute attacks, the debility and emaciation, the increased susceptibilities of the patient to the slightest disturbing cause, the predisposition to suffer from local affections, and the supervention of local diseases.

A cure by such means is sometimes purchased at the expense of a broken constitution and a life of misery. It is a poor boon, to be rid of a temporary difficulty by having substituted for it one of permanency and incurability. Drugs may not be taken with impunity; and the relief they sometimes afford will not justify their use in large doses. The mischief they may do is by far greater than any good they are capable of accomplishing. If drugs have a specific action upon the system, and if they have any peculiar relations to diseased conditions; if they affect the system in accordance with fixed principles and laws, then is the question of their use empirically (experimentally) settled. He who uses them without knowledge of their specific effects—of their peculiar relations to disease—of the laws that control their action—is *the quack*,—*the empiric*.

The specific effect of drugs will hardly be disputed by any one. That *aconite*, *arsenic*, *belladonna*, *hyoscyamus*, *stramonium*, *nuxvomica*, *opium*, *mercury*, *antimony*, &c., have

an action upon the system peculiar to themselves, is unquestioned.

The peculiar relation of some drugs to certain diseases, is well known and regarded in practice; as that of mercury to syphilis, sulphur to the itch, hydriodate of potash to scrofula, &c. The philosophic mind would suppose this relation to hold good throughout, and would naturally seek to discover it. Such was the case with Hahnemann, who was amply rewarded for his researches, by being able to demonstrate the relation, based upon a great universal law. Others have, in like manner, proved this relation; and now the evidence is so accumulated, that the truth of it is to be presumed. No principle in science has a greater amount of evidence; and it commands belief upon the same testimony as other principles or facts do. It can no more be refuted by simple denial than can any fact in astronomy or chemistry.

If this be so, what estimate will he make of his own intelligence, his love of science, love of truth, and sympathy for the sufferings and misfortunes of his fellow creatures, who, regardless of them, persists in a course ignoble because empirical; blighting to the progress and independence of his own mind, and mischievous, because he professes to practise a healing art; whereas he inflicts an immense amount of suffering and disease. No honest mind can reject this testimony unless it be imbued with prejudice to an extent altogether inexcusable and inglorious.

Drugs then have a natural relation to disease; and it is determined by the existing similarity of the symptoms of disease to those characteristic of drugs; and this, and this alone, should be the guide to their use.

To be continued.

ON THE ACTION OF IMPERCEPTIBLE AGENTS ON THE LIVING BODY.

BY PROFESSOR D'AMADOR.

Concluded.

After adducing the well-known facts of the chemical purity of the air in localities where ague, the plague, the cholera, or epidemic diseases are committing their ravages; after observing that the contents of the poison-bag of the viper resembles in chemical composition sweet almond oil; that the pus of the pestiferous bubo, the lymph of the vaccine pustule, differ not, save in their effects, from ordinary

pus and lymph; he infers that the material we subject to our analysis is but the vehicle in which an immaterial etherial virus resides, analogous in this respect to the vivifying principle of the organized being. But we shall give his own eloquent words:—

"What, gentlemen, can we conclude from all this, but that pathology resembles other branches of our science? What can we conclude, if not that a morbid cause is always, and under all circumstances, the product of a force, and that the material form in which it presents itself to our view, is but the gross covering that conceals it from us: that external forces only act on our organs when they meet with forces in us on which they can act; hence the invisible, the instantaneous character, the celerity of pathogenetic actions, whether of contagions, or of epidemics, or of the natural or artificial inoculation of diseases. In all cases it is forces which meet, combat, combine, repel, neutralize each other, or mutually regulate one another. Our health, disease, death, our very existence, is but the result of these forces. Thus it is that nature, in the immense scale of being, has sketched, as it were, an entire system of forces, and that passing from forces which are not precipient to those that are, from inanimate to living forces, she has, by gradually progressive shades, at last developed in man the supreme type of forces, and the most elevated degree of existence. In man, indeed, life does not exist solely in sensible and irritable organs, in the involuntary motions they execute, nor in the connected chain produced and maintained by the combined actions of life. In man, true life consists in thought, in that intellectual something which gives us consciousness of our existence, and in that power of will which renders us masters of ourselves. Such is life at its culminating point, force *par excellence*, the greatest, the most profound, the most inexplicable of all mysteries. Life, which not only gives us the enjoyment of ourselves, but which attaches us to all that surrounds us. It is by means of it that the grand spectacle of nature attracts our attention, that our ideas dart from pole to pole more rapidly than lightning; it is by means of it that thought embraces in its grasp in a moment of time the whole expanse of worlds, all the vast extent of the universe, and loses itself in infinity.

"There is, then, in every science, and particularly in medicine, both sensible facts which are seen, and invisible facts which can only be

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conceived, both demonstrable and inductive facts, both facts which are apparent, and such as are more concealed, which, without being seen, regulate and govern the other facts. It is these invisible and only essential facts that alone are important, for they are the generators of other facts; and in every case that which is not seen governs that which is visible. These facts are the various forces of nature. These forces are at the bottom of all visible phenomena, they produce them, they modify them for good or for evil, and, since they are the true causes, if we modify them we shall modify the phenomena themselves. 'For the true springs of our organization,' as Buffon remarks, 'are not those muscles, those veins, those arteries, which are described with such exactness and care. There exist in organized bodies internal forces, which do not follow the gross mechanical laws we imagine, and to which we would reduce every thing.' This thought has been expressed in different terms, by a man as great as the astronomical, as Buffon was in the physical sciences, whose name corresponds in France to that of Newton in England. 'Beyond the limits of this visible anatomy,' says Laplace, 'commences another anatomy whose phenomena we cannot perceive; beyond the limits of this external physiology of forces, of action, and of motion, exists another invisible physiology, whose principles, effects, and laws, is of greater importance to know.' And, we may add, that beyond the limits of these material and voluminous therapeutics, there are other therapeutics far more important to know, and far more useful to practice.

"Thus the greatest men, of whom the sciences usually opposed in spirit to medicine can boast, are unanimous in the admission of a vital dynamism; and I imagine, gentlemen, I have a fair title for obtaining your assent to this great dogma, by placing it under the regis-
ter of these illustrious names.

"I have thus, I conceive, proved to you that the most active agents in nature are imperceptible entities, which, like electricity, magnetism, heat, and light, have neither odor, savor, color, volume, dimensions, determinate shapes, nor definite proportions; which pervade all things without being anywhere perceptible; which govern all things without being seen themselves; which penetrate everywhere, but whose essence we cannot penetrate. Agents of life, of health, of death, and of disease, nature has disseminated them every where throughout the immensity of space, under the

graceful form of flowers, in the fluids which are appropriated or rejected by animals and plants. To these invisible agents, to these forces we owe our earliest breath; to them also is due our latest sigh; from them alone is derived the continuance of our existence, and they are the source of the derangements we are subject to. Physiology, hygiene toxicology, and pathology, in other words, the sciences of life, of health, of death, and of disease, are all dependent on the same principle; for it is a force, a breath, that creates, kills, preserves us, that produces our diseases, and occasions our sufferings.

"It remains to be proved, gentlemen, that therapeutics are, and ought to be, similar to the other departments of our art,—that it is also a breath, a force, that cures and relieves our disorders. It remains to be proved, in order to trace the complete scientific circle, that the therapeutics of forces, the dynamic therapeutics, the vitalist therapeutics, (for they are all the same,) are likewise, of all possible therapeutics, if not the only true, at least the speediest, the surest, the most appropriate, and, in the vast majority of cases, the most efficacious of all therapeutics; that they are the most rational in theory, and the most successful in their practical application; that they alone ought to be, that they alone are, able to realize the three grand degrees that Celsus, even at the early period when he flourished, demanded of all useful therapeutics, to cure diseases quickly, certainly, and agreeably. In a word, it remains to be proved, that if there be a dynamical, a vital physiology, hygiene, toxicology, and pathology, there ought to be therapeutics of a similar character."

After quoting some facts from allopathic observers to prove that such is the case, among others the experiments of M. Lafarge, who always succeeded in producing an eruption of a specific character by the inoculation of the most minute portions of laudanum—1-500th, 1,1000th, 1-2000th of a grain, and the observations of M. Soubeiran with respect to the efficacy of extremely minute doses of a certain ferruginous preparation, our author goes on to say:—

"But it will be said, these facts may be true, but they are repugnant to common sense. Gentlemen, if the action of imperceptible agents is opposed to common sense, that is as much as to say, that experience is opposed to it; but as common sense and experience are not, and cannot be contradictory, if common

sense refuses to believe in the action of imperceptible agents, common sense stands in need of a thorough reform, which experience will be able to effect. Science, which is nothing else than the reflection of experience, has, in this manner, reformed common sense several times. Common sense believed for centuries that the world was fixed, and astronomical science corrected common sense, and brought it to its own way of thinking. The virtue of vaccine was repugnant to common sense, at the period of its discovery; but, now-a-days, experience has so completely demonstrated it, that any one who doubted it would be held to be destitute of common sense. In fine, common sense rebelled, and with some reason, against the frightful doses of the Italian school. It could not be comprehended how twenty grains of tartar emetic would not produce vomiting, when two grains caused copious evacuation; but here again, as elsewhere, science—that is to say, experience, has advantageously put common sense to rights.

"And should we, with this before us, treat with contempt a system of therapeutics which is but the application of one of our most certain maxims? To the diseased vital forces let us oppose the forces of natural substances, but divested of all material covering; these forces will thus be brought face to face; they will act directly on each other, without any interposing agent; and hence will ensue more rapid, more certain, and more agreeable cures.

* * * Observe, finally, gentlemen, that the vital therapeutics of which I speak are to medicine what the study of electricity and the imponderables has been to chemistry,—what the study of motive powers has been to mechanical art. * * * Far from overthrowing Hippocratism, or the true vitalism of Montpellier, our modern therapeutics confirm, complete, extend, and apply it, add what was wanting to it, and supply its deficiencies. The Divine Old Man bequeathed to us, so to say, the code of medicine, in which its great laws were laid down, its principles registered, its fundamental dogmas established; the work of ages is and ever shall be to deduce from these premises the most remote consequences; to bring all the great facts which subsequent discoveries may reveal and produce within the Hippocratic domain. Some of these discoveries have been already gathered in, and can never more be lost; others have been sown, and as yet exist but in the germ; but nought can blast this germ; on the contrary, it will

grow, and the tree will yield its fruit to us and to all posterity."—*British Journal of Homoeopathy*.

LETTER OF HAHNEMANN TO DR. STAFF.

LEIPZIG, Sept. 1813.

Dear Friend,—Your kind feeling towards myself and our art delights me much, and alleviates many of the burdens of life. Husband your strength; do not over-labor; and always consider how much you can overtake in the way of thinking, speaking, and writing, in a given time, without consuming your powers too fast. For you have reason to expect enduring health and a long life; and in a long life, well regulated and passed in tranquility of mind, a man can accomplish much—yes, incredibly much good, both for himself and others. You have natural endowments for all that I expect of you, and you will undoubtedly make it good. This I perceive by the symptoms of chamomilla, rhus, pulsatilla, nux-vomica, china, and opium. Your observations are honest and exact. Continue to work in this true spirit. What we perform in this department is a religious work for the good of humanity. Men may or may not now recognize our pure and benevolent intentions;—we do not live for the applause of men alone. The Omnipresent and All Holy One views our labor with complacency; and to Him alone, and to our own consciences, do we live here and hereafter.

You are right, that the aggravation, by any substance, of symptoms which are present, most probably indicates that the medicine has the power of exciting these symptoms of itself. We must not, however, incorporate such symptoms in the list of the positive effects of the medicine, at least not in writing. All we may do is to bear them in mind, so as to direct our attention to them specially, should they occur for the first time during the use of the medicine.

When I propose any substance for proving, I will take care that it is not one which is dangerous to the health, and so prepared that it will not affect you too violently; for we are not entitled to do injury to ourselves. I send you along with this some tincture of pure *Heliborus-niger*, which I gathered myself. Each drop contains 1-20th of a grain of the root. Any day when you are well, and have no very urgent business, and have not eaten any medicinal substance (such as parsley) at dinner, take one drop of this to eight ounces of water,

and a scruple of alcohol (to prevent its decomposition), shake it briskly, and take an ounce of it while fasting; and so every hour and a half or two hours another ounce, as long as you are not too severely affected with what you take. But should severe symptoms set in, which I am not afraid of, you may take some drops of tincture of camphor in an ounce of water, or more, if necessary; and this will allay the symptoms.

After all the effects of the hellebore have subsided, I wish you to try the effects of camphor alone: it is a divine remedy. About two grains dissolved in a scruple of alcohol, and shaken with eight ounces of water, take four or six times a day, with similar precaution as the other.

I hope you will occasionally write something in the *Allgemeine Anzeiger* in honor of Homœopathy. Your style is rich, fluent, and energetic; and the good cause stands in need of such a herald. Besides, nothing educates our mind so much as (improving conversation and) the representation of our thoughts in published writings. This gradually induces a wonderful correctness in thinking, and gives distinctness of expression, so as to enable us to communicate our thoughts in such a way that others may read our very soul, and build themselves upon it. We are thus enabled to bring about in others a conviction of that which they ought to know. It is by our convictions and our doctrines that we sway our age.

Yours, most truly,

SAMUEL HAHNEMANN.

DR. WHEATON'S LETTER TO THE EDITORS.

Extract of a letter from Dr. P. Wheaton, of Detroit, Michigan. Dated July 19th, 1846.

"We like the tone of your editorials much, especially as it regards dilutions. We are convinced that the cause of truth loses nothing by a rigid examination; and when we arrive at truth, then let it be known immediately. There are plenty of Hahnemannians throughout the States, who applaud your course, and, I am very confident, will sustain you in it. If the state of our own minds can be depended upon as an index, this is certain to be the case. And furthermore, we would say, that on the one hand, tampering and knuckling in allœopathy is not the thing. No man can witness the application of the thirtieth attenuation of the appropriate Homœopathic drug, and deny its powerfully curative and even aggravating effects on the disease. This we have seen repeatedly; and I even lost a case into the depths of allœopathy, through the injudicious use of nux-vomica of the six-

teenth attenuation; the patient declaring that she would not take such powerful drugs, as every dose made her worse. This statement I have heard from many; and now we never give the nux in that dilution—nor, in fact, any other drug. We give, in all chronic cases, the thirtieth attenuation; and to all cases of children, and even many acute cases of adults. Yet in intermittents and bilious fevers, we often give the third attenuation, and even pure tinctures often repeated, and with prompt relief without bad effects.

I wish personally likewise to state, while on this subject, that I kept all my chronic patients on the first to the sixteenth attenuations, during one year of my Homœopathic practice; and I must candidly own that not one radical cure was effected. Many cases were palliated; but very many daily and rapidly grew worse, especially while under the use of the sixth to the sixteenth attenuations. In time, and after serious reflection, I discovered my error, and put my patients on the thirtieth; and they rapidly and permanently improved. Our experience so far, goes to prove that worse aggravations are caused by the medium dilutions, than by the third, and even below; so that at present we either use the thirtieth, or else the third, or below this, and skip the intermediate dilutions entirely, excepting with Belladonna and acetonite occasionally."

Dr. Wheaton is the partner of Dr. Ellis; and this accounts for his use of "we" and "I" in his letter. We do not know that the Doctor intended any portion of his letter for publication; but we think our readers will agree with us, that it is too valuable to throw away. Such testimony will tend to induce physicians of our school, to put to the test of rigid experiment, Hahnemann's method of curing diseases. It is a striking fact, that no one in any part of the world, who has honestly tested his method, but has been compelled to acknowledge his results. Why do Homœopaths hesitate to treat diseases as he did? At the present time the evidence of its truth is very ample, and constantly accumulating. We are urged by a sense of duty to speak in strong terms of disapprobation of those who call themselves after Hahnemann's name, but do not as he did. The truth is greatly injured thereby; but we do hope and expect that every member of our school "will see eye to eye." If we form our opinion from positive experience, we shall do so; if not, not. We are often mortified to hear of failures in the cure of disease by what is erroneously called Homœopathy, while in truth she had nothing to do with it.

We have yet to meet the opponent of the higher dilutions of drugs, who had tested their efficacy by proper experiment. The higher dilutions may be administered to the sick, and at

the same time, be so managed as to be no test whatever. This we have often seen; much oftener than we hope ever to see again. We must bring everything embraced in Homœopathy to a strict test of experiment; and in doing so, follow Hahnemann closely, and thereby furnish evidence of the truth or falsity of his doctrines and practice.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER.

We have received a letter from a highly respectable member of the bar in Michigan, who was in this city a few months ago, during which time he had frequent conversations with us on Homœopathy; but, lawyer-like, he concealed from us his convictions on the subject; but after he returned home, under date of July 23d, 1846, he writes to us a most interesting letter, from which, without asking his consent, we have made a few extracts for our readers; viz:—"You are, no doubt, aware that when I left New-York I was a believer in your beautiful art and science, so far as I could be without further experience and observation. Since that period, a practice, as it were forced upon me, almost as extensive as that of ordinary physicians, has but confirmed my convictions.

On my return I was surprised to find that one of my nearest neighbors had used the medicine for a year in his family, with the most perfectly satisfactory results. There were also not less than *four* individuals under Dr. L.'s treatment for chronic diseases—all having commenced since I left home. The success was already remarkable. Dr. L... has practiced on the old plan twenty years, and now *five* years Homœopathically, and is almost as enthusiastic as any of you. He is at least forty-five years of age, and has been a good physician, and is a man of sense and high character. He lives about fourteen miles from this place.

A lady living near us has been terribly afflicted with dyspepsia, &c., until she had become partially deranged, believing she was doomed to certain perdition, &c. I commenced treating her (temporarily of course), and enabled her to sleep comfortably, and in many respects relieved her. She is now under the care of Dr. L..., with a prospect of improvement. I have treated three cases of whooping-cough in very delicate children, at the earnest request of their parents. You may think that for one so inexperienced, and having no book but the "*Domestic Medicine*," it

was a very difficult and responsible affair. I, however, borrowed from a neighbor, a little epitome of a *Materia Medica*, which, inadequate as it is, was of invaluable assistance. So far I have had most gratifying success, and have made several converts to the science. Of course I have made them understand that I wished to get rid of all such practice, and there is quite a call for Dr. L...

One case was a dangerous one. It was a little girl about five years old. She had been sick six weeks, and was continually vomiting and purging; and the parents expected to lose her. She had been out of health for a year with liver complaint, and had just before had the mumps and measles. I gave her *ipicac*; allowing twenty-four hours for its operation; then *veratrum* allowing forty-eight hours—as the symptoms seemed to allow it. By that time the internal troubles seemed almost removed. I then gave her *drasera*, and the whooping-cough yielded at once. Still she was not well, though much better, and had some slight eruption about the mouth. I then gave her *hepar sulphur*, which, in three or four days, brought out a most horrible scabby eruption on the head, face, neck, and back, not going below the waist. They did not tell me of this, but called a doctor, who pronounced the eruption a fortunate thing, and gave no medicine, except, I believe, to recommend *sarsaparilla*, which they gave for a week or more, until the child was attacked with dysentery. They then called me, and I stopped it *at once* with *mercurius*. I believe she is now doing well, the eruption being nearly healed.

Homœopathy is gaining ground here with astonishing rapidity. The fact is (leaving us out) the science here is in first-rate hands and *defies* contempt."

CASE,

By Dr. Barlow, one of the physicians of the N. Y. Homœopathic Dispensary.

Miss B. W., aged fifty-two, and of scrofulous diathesis, formerly much subject to bilious affections, with sick headache; sixteen years since became partially paralytic in the left fore-arm and hand, which was then supposed to arise from enlarged glands about the neck from scrofula: fifteen years since, during a severe attack of what was supposed to be sick headache, became apoplectic, the sequelæ of which was nearly a complete paralysis

of the left hand and arm. For the last fifteen years the arm has been useless, quite pulseless, nearly bloodless, numb, prickling, with occasional turns of severe pain of the whole arm, and which, from their severity, were nearly insupportable,—the limb flabby, diminished in size, so utterly destitute of strength and firmness that in endeavoring to excite some trifling motion, the thumb, fingers, and sometimes even the wrist, would, as it were, fall out of joint. Being left-handed, she would often try to do with that limb what she, under other circumstances, would not. She was scarcely able to raise the hand without the aid of the right, and not able to hold anything in the hand with safety or steadiness. Disposition fretful, touchy, irritable, easily discouraged, and inclined to weep, mind weakened. General health in most respects delicate. Nervous, excitable, unhappy.

On the first of July I gave her *rhus radicans* three pellets of the third dilution—the same on the morning of the second. She passed a somewhat restless night with much severe aching of the back of the neck, shoulders, instep and toes of the left foot, with severe tingling, and prickling of the left arm and hand.

Through the 2d, 3d, and 4th of July the pains continued severe, and extended to the whole left arm and hand which seemed swollen, and the veins of the left limb, which had rarely been susceptible to the sight or feel, became full, blue, hard, painful in the extreme. All this was attended with dizziness of the head, slight terms of faintness, great irritability and complaining, less than usual appetite, insecure feeling when walking, or unsteadiness of gait, free motions of the bowels and abundant discharge of pale urine.

On the 5th, the unusual symptoms began to abate; and in about three days she was free from any considerable suffering, with a quite perceptible, yet rather feeble pulse, where, for fifteen years, none had been detected even by physicians, veins remained filled giving the limb nearly the appearance it had before being paralyzed, daily sensible increase of the usefulness of the limb.

On the 13th, she was able to use a needle, and is now at this writing (August 1st) able to do one third of a day's work at sewing. There is still yet daily increase of power in the limb, with improvement of the general health, rarely feels slight pain in the limb, is more cheerful, less irritable, has more ambition and fortitude. She is yet resting from all medicine; but fol-

lows strict rules of diet. I design to repeat the medicine at some future period if improvement ceases short of perfect restoration of the functions of the diseased organ.

I have another case of paralysis of the right arm under treatment with the same medicine, with certainly some benefit; but how much remains to be seen.

A CASE.

Mrs. B., aged 55, of a sanguine, nervous temperament. Had been sick for three years. One year ago a record was made of her case, and seemingly the most appropriate drugs administered, with only an occasional partial mitigation. The attacks became severe, and were wearing out one of the best constitutions. This lady is intelligent, and one of the firmest advocates of Homœopathia, notwithstanding she could, herself, procure no relief from it. The *law of cure* she knew to be true; but the remedy was wanting.

Lately another record was taken of this case, which was as follows:—

Pain on the top of the head in the morning, swimming in head when stooping or rising, cloudiness of the eyes, soreness of mouth and throat, dry cough in the morning, attacks of tearing pain, sometimes stinging and sharp, commencing in the stomach and extending to the sides and shoulders and nape of the neck, with stiffness; distress in stomach like a weight, mitigated by eating; sense of fullness in stomach; wind on stomach, eructations; cannot bear the pressure of even light clothes. Pain in the bowels, bearing down or pressing pain; pain in the left side, as if something adhered to the lower ribs. Constipation; sense of dragging and falling in abdomen; pain in the hips and legs; pain as if in the bones, like rheumatism; jerking of the feet in the evening. Numbness of the arms, with prickling in the fingers. Sleep disturbed, frequent wakings; pain in the stomach at night. Fatigue from walking; excessive debility; sufferings aggravated on change of weather. The pains are tearing, stinging, pressing, and shifting—sometimes on the left; and sometimes on the right sides; and then on both sides at the same time; some of them aggravated by movement, and others mitigated by lying down and rest.

The attacks had occurred daily at five o'clock, P. M., and almost invariably at night, awaking her from sleeping, there had been no intermission for months.

As I had been trying *rhus radicans* on my-

self for some weeks, I was struck with the peculiar stinging, pricking pains of this case as corresponding to those I had experienced in my own person by the above drug. On the 26th of June last, at 4 o'clock, P. M., I gave her three globules of the third dilution of *Rhus radicans*. She had no attack that day, nor has she had any since;—her health improved, and it is now good.

S—.

LAWS OF HEALTH.—DISEASE.

The ordinary and injudicious use of drugs is a prolific cause of disease.—That drugs are capable of producing in the system permanently disturbed and diseased conditions, is evident from observation and their *laws of action*.

Drugs have an action in the system far different from the palliative effect intended by their use. Notwithstanding they may relieve the existing condition, they subsequently affect the system in a way peculiar to the substance employed,—they set up their specific actions. According to the law of "the specific and definite action of medicines (poisons), *they have a period of lateness*," and, consequently, some time must elapse "before their specific actions come into operation." * * * * * "When a medicine acts on more parts than one, a considerable space of time may elapse after it has affected one organ before it affects another.

If these laws were observed, and the specific actions of drugs studied, the frequency of the aggravations produced, and of new conditions instituted, would astonish those who so habitually employ them.

In regard to a few substances these laws are regarded by the more intelligent and judicious members of the profession, and they avoid their use, save in cases, in their estimation, of great emergency or absolute necessity. This admission in relation to a few, is equally true as to the whole, and if it acknowledges the principle at all, it should forever, and in every case, be regarded.

Upon what principle, then, may drugs be employed at the hazard of producing their *specific latent* effects in accordance with the above laws? If upon the ground of necessity,—if the physician is possessed of no other means, this fact, and the true subsequent probable effect of the drug he wishes to use should be clearly and fully made known to the patient and his friends. They ought certainly to be

informed that drugs are poisons; that they do not affect the system temporarily, merely; but that they produce other and far different effects from those wished, by their present use;—that they do not immediately produce their poisonous effects; that they lie latent in the system some time, and subsequently set up their specific actions; that they may operate upon other parts or organs than those now deranged or diseased; that though they may afford relief, they will give rise to other and more or less remote difficulties; and that then new difficulties will be severe, according to the *predisposition* of the patient to the influence of the remedy. Knowing these laws and effects, the physician is bound by every principle of moral obligation and common honesty, to see that his patients fully understand the nature of the means he employs, and the conditions upon which he is able to afford him present palliation.

It ought certainly to be optional with the patient, or his friends, after understanding fully the whole ground, and means, and conditions, upon which probable, or even certain relief can be afforded him, whether or not he will accept them. How can the course of the physician be justified, if he proceed, with the patient in ignorance of the consequences,—to change or remove one condition by substituting for it another, perhaps of a more serious and incalculable character?

It should be *optional with the patient*, whether or not he will consent to suffer his life long from the specific effects of the remedy proposed to palliate his present sufferings."

If he can be cured of his *chills and fever* by no other than such means as will leave his system weak, predisposed to similar attacks, rendered susceptible to innumerable disturbing causes, or to have disease engendered upon some vital organ—as tubercles in the lungs, as often results from the use of *quinine*, it should certainly be subject to *his own decision* whether he will submit to their use, or resort to other means than those proposed.

We might multiply instances of the latent and local effects of drugs, consequent upon their use in ordinary cases of deranged conditions which need only to be seen to be recognized; but this is unnecessary, because generally admitted, and because they must necessarily result from their laws of action. Upon these laws and effects, their use in poisonous (ordinary doses), must be condemned. They are in themselves evidence against such use. They cannot produce curative, but must ne-

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cessarily produce poisonous effects; and it follows, that the principle of their use, so as to secure their curative influence, remains to be discovered.

ALLŒOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA.

Much of the allœopathic Materia Medica is owing merely to arbitrary suppositions, from Dioscorides to the present time; more even to speculation in favor of classifications and various systems of medicine, which have been brought forward from time to time; and if we deduct the few remedies known as specifics, and arrived at empirically, and a small amount of clear and unmixed observations on some medicines, little indeed remains that is of decided scientific value in the ordinary Materia Medica. If the resources of this branch of medical science were as real and extensive as the works on the subject would lead one to suppose, medical practitioners would not resort with so much eagerness, as they generally do, to the promiscuous and little scientific use of any new remedy, which is recommended mostly upon very light grounds, and often becomes the fashion in medical practice till another starts up and displaces the former. Thus iodine, creosot, prussic acid, calomel, quinine and many others have each been at one time a favorite, often to the irreparable detriment of the invalid; and others will be introduced and again discarded, till by proper methods the true effects of medicines are ascertained, and a Materia Medica of real practical value is arrived at. To show that these remarks on the allœopathic Materia Medica are not a prejudiced, one-sided statement, let us add in conclusion, a few quotations from allœopathic writers, who testify to the imperfection of this branch of medical science.

Girtanner says: "Our Materia Medica is nothing else but a careful collection of fallacious observations, which medical men have made at all times. There certainly are amongst them a few valuable results founded on sound experience: but who will lose his time to search for those few grains of gold in that large mass of rubbish, which physicians have gathered up for the last two thousand years?"

Dr. Cullen says: "The writers on Materia Medica abound with numberless false conclusions, which are, however, supposed or pretended to be drawn from experience. Such indeed is the state of this matter, that nobody can

consult these writers with any success or safety, unless he is prepared with a great deal of scepticism on the subject."—*A Concise View, &c.*

THE SPIRIT OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC DOCTRINE.

BY SAMUEL HAHNEMANN.

Translated by Geddes M. Scott, M. D., of Glasgow, Scotland.

"From seeing evil still educing good."

Continued.

Now, as dynamic affections of the organism, due either to the malady or to medicines, are cognizable only by the manifestation of changes occurring in the manner of feeling and acting, and that in consequence also the resemblance of these dynamic affections can be expressed only by that of symptoms; but that the organism being much more susceptible of being attacked by the medicine than by the malady, yields more to the medicinal affection, that is to say, allows itself to be more modified by it than by the analogous diseased affection, hence it indubitably follows, that it must be disengaged from the diseased affection when we bring it to act upon a medicine which, differing from it in its own nature, approaches as nearly as possible to it in the analogy of its symptoms, that is to say, is Homœopathic: for the organism, in its quality of a living unity, cannot admit at once two similar dynamic affections without the weaker being obliged to give way to the stronger. But, since it has a tendency to be affected more strongly by a medicine than by an analogous malady, the latter must necessarily disappear, and the organism then be cured.

Let no one imagine, that when to cure a living organism of its malady, we communicate to it a new and similar affection by a dose of Homœopathic medicine, it becomes, on that account more oppressed than formerly, that is to say, that an addition has been made to the malady in the same way that a plate of lead, compressed by a weight in iron, becomes still further compressed, when to this we add a stone, or that a piece of copper rendered hot by rubbing, becomes hotter still if we plunge it into boiling water. The case is not so. Our living organism is not regulated by the physical laws of dead matter; it re-acts with a vital resistance, (as being in all points living and on all sides closed,) to disengage itself from its

diseased modification, (and allow it to extinguish itself in it,) when it comes under the influence of another similar but more powerful affection excited by a Homœopathic medicine.

Thus does our living organism re-act in a dynamic, and in some sort, spiritual manner. In virtue of a self-acting power, it arrests in its interior a weaker discordant affection (the disease) as soon as the stronger power of the Homœopathic medicine procures for it another but very analogous affection. In other words, the unity of its life does not admit of its suffering simultaneously, two general similar derangements, and it is necessary that the present dynamic affection (the disease) should cease as soon as a second dynamic power (the medicine), more capable of modifying it, acts upon it and excites symptoms having much analogy with those of the other. Something corresponding to this takes place in the human mind."

To be continued.

A Concise View of the System of Homœopathy, and Refutation of the Objections commonly brought forward against it.

Published by the Irish Homœopathic Society; pp. 264: octavo. Dublin, 1845.

This is the best written work of the kind we ever read. It is adapted to the laity as well as to the profession. A few copies have been received by Mr. Radde, 322 Broadway. Price \$1 00.

The editions of Nos. 1 and 3 of this Journal are exhausted; but new editions will be published in a few weeks, and new subscribers are assured that they will be punctually forwarded to them, so that the Journal for the year will be complete.

Drs. Joslin and Bayard have been associated with the physicians of the N. Y. Homœopathic Dispensary.

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